



MU-SPIN  
*Tenth Anniversary  
User's Conference*  
&  
MURED  
*Second Annual  
Education Conference*

Morris Brown College and the Renaissance Atlanta Hotel  
Atlanta, Georgia

September 11-16, 2000

*Sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's  
Minority University Research & Education Division*

**Register on-line at [http://muspin.gsfc.nasa.gov/  
conferences/00conference/00conf\\_info.html](http://muspin.gsfc.nasa.gov/conferences/00conference/00conf_info.html)**

# MU-SPIN 2000: Celebrating Our Tenth Year With Our Eyes on the Prize

This is our tenth annual conference and we are proud to announce this year's conference will be jointly hosted by the NASA Minority University Research and Education Division (MURED). MU-SPIN and MURED are celebrating their tenth anniversary and we will celebrate by announcing our first joint annual research and education conference. This conference will provide a national forum for showcasing successful MU-SPIN and MURED Program (MUREP) experiences to enhance faculty/student development in areas of scientific and technical research and education.

"Celebrating Our Tenth Year With Our Eyes on the Prize" is the theme of this year's conference. This joint conference advances the collaboration between MU-SPIN and MURED for strengthening the capabilities of minority institutions to participate in NASA science and technology. As in the past, we will come together to learn from each other, identify new resources, and find resources to the issues and problems which face us all.



James Harrington Jr.  
MU-SPIN Project Manager

## Call for Participation: Papers Welcome!

You are invited to participate in the joint MU-SPIN Tenth Anniversary Users' Conference and MURED Second Annual Education Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Interested contributors should submit a 250 word summary (no figures or references) by July 1, 2000. Your summary should include the conference topic addressed and should state whether a general or poster session presentation is preferred. Presenters will be notified of their status by July 15, 2000. If selected, you will be provided with up to \$800 travel assistance (i.e. meals, airfare and hotel).

Accepted summaries received electronically can be accessed on the World Wide Web before and after the conference. A final copy of your presentation will be required no later than September 18. Final copies should be in narrative format in MS Word, etc. No hard copies or PowerPoint files please!

You can submit your abstract electronically by email using any standard word processing language or ASCII text. Additional information can be found at [http://muspin.gsfc.nasa.gov/conferences/00conference/00cfp\\_info.html](http://muspin.gsfc.nasa.gov/conferences/00conference/00cfp_info.html).

Electronic submissions: **(Preferred!)**  
E-Mail: [robin@muspin.gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:robin@muspin.gsfc.nasa.gov)

Written and faxed submissions:  
MU-SPIN Coordination Office  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center  
Mail Code 933  
Greenbelt, MD 20771  
Telephone: 301-286-3409  
Fax: 301-286-1775

Please provide your complete mail/delivery address, phone, fax and email address on all correspondence.

## Conference Schedule-at-a-Glance as of 5/00

*\* All activities are held at the Atlanta Renaissance Hotel unless otherwise noted.*

Monday, September 11 –  
Registration, Welcome Reception &  
Poster Session

Tuesday, September 12 –  
Opening Sessions, Morris Brown  
College  
Awards Dinner

Wednesday, September 13 –  
Main Sessions  
Break-out Sessions

Thursday, September 14 –  
Break-out Sessions  
Main Sessions  
\*Dinner on your own

Friday, September 15 –  
Conference Wrap-up  
Group Activities

Saturday, September 16 –  
Group Activities

## Hot Links

MU-SPIN  
<http://muspin.gsfc.nasa.gov>

MURED  
<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codee/mured.html>

Morris Brown College  
<http://www.morrisbrown.edu>

# The Making of Morris Brown College

On October 15, 1885, just 20 years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, 107 students and nine teachers walked into a crude wooden structure at the corner of Boulevard and Houston Street in Atlanta, Georgia marking the formal opening of the first educational institution in Georgia under solely Negro Patronage. That institution was Morris Brown College, named to honor the memory of the Second Consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The fact of its founding as a child of the church not only determined the institution's philosophical thrust, but also created a system of support which functioned to channel its early energies toward developing programs to serve the needs of students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. The College, at that time, was largely dependent upon a denomination whose constituency was primarily unskilled, untrained and economically unstable. In order to survive, the College had to absorb into its enrollment a large segment of underachieving students whose parents were loyal supporters of the Church that kept its doors open. What began as survival strategy for Morris Brown in 1881 became the liberation cry for Black masses and the country at large in the 1960's. At the point of higher education, that cry was heard in all colleges -black and white, large and small, state and private - in the room of pressures to develop programs in tune with the needs of economically disadvantaged youth. For Morris Brown, however, it was

a matter of doing what came naturally -better and more effectively.

If there is a uniqueness about Morris Brown, it is perhaps a kind of institutional flexibility based on the assumption that a college can serve the needs of students with the educational handicaps of substandard environments without betraying the talents and abilities of those with high intellectual capacities. In a campus atmosphere conducive to well-balanced growth, an academic program consisting of course content, course requirements, and teaching methods geared toward the preparation, motivation and achievement levels of both types has not only inspired average and better than average students to great height of achievement in competition, but has also transformed sensitive high risk" students into performers far better than their credentials suggest them capable.

Morris Brown College now stands as a thriving institution, fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools with majors offered in more than 40 areas of study including Business Sciences, Computer Science, Chemistry, Biology and Hospitality Administration.

Leaders of the College have always been Black and include two women and fourteen men.



## From Humble Beginnings: A brief history of Atlanta

Present-day Atlanta is a booming metropolis and home to millions of people. It has become the de-facto "capital of the New South" and is widely regarded as one of the fastest growing cities in America. However, newcomers to the city tend to overlook the fact that Atlanta is a city with a rich historical past...and very humble beginnings!

Atlanta started its life in 1837 as a small train station. At that time, it hardly qualified as a small town - nothing more than a few houses occupied by employees of the Western and Atlantic Railroad. Since it was the last stop on the railroad line, the "town" was known as Terminus. As the importance of the train station grew and the number of employees living in the town increased, it changed its name (in 1843) and was briefly known as Marthasville.

The town changed its name to the current "Atlanta" just a few years prior to the Civil War in 1845. The name was chosen as the "female form" of Atlantic and was meant to highlight the city's rail link to the sea. It was during this time that the town started looking like a real place to live. The

railroad, of course, was still there - and a courthouse, hotel and two colleges had sprung up. The town even had its own newspaper!

Unfortunately, before Atlanta could really become much more it was destroyed in the Civil War by Sherman's soldiers during the famous "March to the Sea". Almost everything was laid to waste. The graves of some ten thousand Union soldiers that were involved in this march can still be seen today at the Marietta National Cemetery. Atlanta literally rose "like a phoenix out of the ashes" after this disaster.

A tribute to the people who remained behind after this devastation is that they started rebuilding the town right away - and quite quickly at that. As the city rebuilt, the capitol of the state was moved in 1868 from nearby Milledgeville to Atlanta (a short fourteen years after being burned to the ground). Two newspapers were started during this pivotal time in the city's history - the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution. Today, these two newspapers are one company - known as the

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# A brief history of Atlanta - continued

Atlanta Journal-Constitution - and between the morning edition and evening edition are probably read by almost every resident in the city.

As the city grew in size, importance, and political influence it started to attract other businesses as well. In 1891, Asa Griggs Candler acquired a small company - Candler's Drug Store started selling a tonic that was said to cure headaches and hangovers - it was called Coca Cola. This multi-national corporation remains headquartered in Atlanta today.

The Fire of 1917 threatened to put a damper on the city's phenomenal growth when about 50 blocks of the city went up in flames. The horse drawn vehicles used for putting out the fires could not keep up with the intensity and fierceness of the historical fire - and were never used again after that event. Despite this brief setback, as Atlanta entered the 1920's its growth and remarkable progress continued -- and this period is often referred to as the "Golden Age of Atlanta" by historians today.

During the "Golden Age", Atlanta saw radio stations begin, Sears and Roebuck come to town, the High Museum of Art open and the Tourism Commission come into being. After being elected a city alderman in 1923, William B. Hartsfield started the hunt for an airport location and focused on an abandoned race-track owned by Asa Candler of Coca-Cola fame. The City Council looked at other sites but decided on Hartsfield's preference in 1925. The city took a five-year lease, rent free, to develop the racetrack into an airport, with the option to buy the 287 acres outright for the sum of \$100,000 (which they did in 1930). Candler Field was opened as the first public airport in Atlanta. Today this airport is known as Hartsfield International Airport - and is the busiest airport in the entire world (overtaking Chicago O'Hare in 1998) with additional plans for expansion! Almost every frequent traveller has stories about Atlanta's airport - about how busy it is, how large it is, etc. Hartsfield himself went on to be a long-serving Mayor of Atlanta from 1938 to 1961.

Despite all these things, what most people feel is the single most important factor for Atlanta's fame and fortune was the only novel ever written by Margaret Mitchell - herself a native of Atlanta. "Gone With the Wind" became a sensation when released and the author was awarded a Pulitzer Prize. Later, a movie was made of the book - garnering even more attention for the city. The novel is now the best selling novel of all time and has been distributed in over 35 languages. The Lovejoy Plantation, located just 20 miles south of the city, is said to be the inspiration for Twelve Oaks in the book.

As the city evolved, racial divisions became a focus of events in the city. The Uncle Remus stories were written by Atlanta resident Joel Chandler Harris - appearing first in the Atlanta Constitution. These stories were intended to help mend racial divisions. They were, and are still, loved by children everywhere. As television became a reality in the late 1940's and early 1950's - the country began to see startling coverage of the desegregation efforts in Atlanta. The effort, while started in the school system, quickly spread to public facilities, restaurants, etc. It was during this time period that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led efforts to achieve equal rights for all regardless of race or color. He won the Nobel Prize for his efforts. King was killed by an assassin in 1968. King's funeral was widely attended by Atlanta residents from all walks of life. His influence is still strongly felt today and many of the places involved in his life and his work are historical sites in downtown today.

Atlanta continued to grow - adding sports teams, shopping centers, office buildings and more. Corporations continued to move to the city and call it home. As a result, Atlanta became one of the largest cities in the country - it became the tenth largest in the nation during the 1990's. The 1996 Summer Olympic Games highlighted Atlanta to the world - and the growth has only continued since then. Latest figures show that the city ranks among the top in job growth, population growth, economic development, etc. Atlanta is the largest metropolitan area in the Southeast and has been ranked by Fortune magazine as one of the top cities in which to do global business. Home to such companies as Coca-Cola, CNN, Cox Enterprises, BellSouth and Scientific Atlanta - the city has become a highly desirable location to live and work, especially in the new technology career fields that are exploding.

Humble beginnings to be sure- but look how far we've come!



***The Atlanta Skyline***